

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 06129 220138Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 INSE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
VO-05 CA-01 /049 W
-----015607 220145Z /63

P R 220101Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5681
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 6129

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, MY
SUBJ: MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON REFUGEES AT
PATTAYA ASEAN MEETING JUNE 14

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 5859

1. SUBSEQUENT TO REFTEL, EMBASSY RECEIVED CORRECTED VERSION OF FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN'S REMARKS ON REFUGEES IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING AT PATTAYA, THAILAND, JUNE 14. WHEREAS THE ORIGINAL TEXT DISTRIBUTED LOCALLY READ AS NOTED REFTEL, I.E., RITHAUDDEEN EXPRESSING THE GOM VIEW THAT "THE (INDOCHINESE REFUGEE) MATTER SHOULD BE TACKLED AT DOURCE (SIC) TO REDUCE OR PREVENT THE OUTFLOW AND THERE MUST BE MORE READINESS ON THE PART OF COUNTRIES ABLE TO DO SO TO ABSORB THE REFUGEES THAT HAVE COME THROUGH," THE CORRECTED VERSION DELETED THE REFERENCE TO TACKLING THE MATTER AT ITS SOURCE TO REDUCE OR PREVENT THE OUTFLOW.

2. AN AUTHORITATIVE MFA SOURCE TOLD US JUNE 20 THAT THE LOCAL
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PRESS HAD BASED THEIR STORIES ON THE EARLIER EMBARGOED TEXT
RELEASED JUNE 13 RATHER THAN THE "AS DELIVERED" VERSION.

3. COMMENT. OUR MFA SOURCE INDICATED THAT THE INITIAL INCLINATION OF THE GOM WAS TO INDICATE ITS DEEP CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUING INFLUX OF REFUGEE BOATS VIA A THINLY-VEILED HINT TO THE SRV TO REINFORCE MEASURES TO PREVENT REFUGEES DEPARTURES.

HOWEVER, THE MALAYSIANS APPARENTLY HAD SEOND THOUGHTS ABOUT POSSIBLE MISINTERPRETATION OF THIS AND THEREFORE DROPPED THE IDEA. ANOTHER MFA SOURCE INDICATED SOME SENSITIVITY TO HOW IT MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD SPECIFICALLY IN THE US.

4. HOWEVER, ONE MFA SOURCE IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JUNE 20 DID SAY THAT MFA HAD APPROACHED THE SRV AMBASSADOR IN KUALA LUMPUR "RECENTLY" TO REQUEST THAT VIETNAM TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE THE OUTFLOW OF REFUGEES. THE AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH THE GOM CONCERNS BUT PLEADED AN INABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY CONTROL THE REFUGEE FLOW BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY IN POLICING SUCH A LONG COAST LINE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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